



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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PENSTEMON GLOBOSUS **GLOBE BEARDTONGUE**

Globe Beardtongue is a glabrous perennial with tufted stems that are 20-60 cm tall, and arising from a shallow, branched, woody rootcrown. The narrowly elliptic, basal leaves are up to 15 cm long and have petioles and entire margins. The opposite stem leaves are shorter, more elliptic, and lack petioles. The inflorescence consists of 1-3 dense clusters of short stalked flowers surrounding the upper portion of the stem at intervals of 1-5 cm. The blue, tubular corolla is 15-20 mm long and is flared and 2-lipped at the mouth. The 5 lance-shaped sepals are 5-8 mm long and usually have broad, white, wavy margins. The anthers are glabrous, and the 2 sacs do not open entirely at their tips. Flowering at end of July.

The combination of crowded bluish flowers, glabrous inflorescence, and anther sacs that remain closed at the tips help distinguish this species from other *PENSTEMON* in the area. *P. PROCERUS* has smaller flowers, and *P. RYDBERGII* has anther sacs that open fully. A hand lens is needed for positive identification.